

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 05966 301921Z

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4844

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 5966

FROM ROCAP

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: CENTRAL AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS AGREE ON
REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

1. SUMMARY: MEETING IN SAN JOSE OCTOBER 25-26 THE CA AND PANAMA
AGMINS REACHED AGREEMENT ON A REGINAL AGRICULTRUAL PROGRAM TO
PROVIDE:
A) GREATER LEADERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE AGRUCULTURE
SECTOR IN THE PROCESS OF RESTRUCTURING THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON
MARKET, AND
B) COORDINATED POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO FOOD PRODUCTION AND
SUPPLY PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. SIECA PROVIDED TECHNICAL AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT SERVICES FOR
THE MEETING, AND SUPPLIES TWO BASIC DOCUMENTS FOR THE MINISTERS'
CONSIDERATION, TO WIT "CENTRAL AMERICAN BASIC GRAINS SITUATION AND
PROSPECTS--OUTLINES FOR A REGINAL ACTION PROGRAM" AND "THE
AGRICULTURE SECTOR IN A RESTRUCTURED COMMON MARKET".

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PAGE 02 GUATEM 05966 301921Z

3. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING THE AG MINISTERS SUBSCRIBED

TO A LENGTHY DOCUMENT DOMINATED " THE AGREEMENT OF SAN JOSE".

4. MAIN FEATURES OF THE AGREEMENT (COPIES AND TRANSLATION BY POUCH) REACHED AT SAN JOSE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A) ACCORD HIGHEST PRIORITY TO MEETING REGIONAL DEMANDS FOR FOOD.

B) COORDINATE EXTERNAL PROCUREMENT DURING 1974-75.

C) IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE RURAL SECTOR THROUGH IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND INCOME DISTRIBUTION.

D) ACHIEVE REGIONAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN GRAINS BY 1980.

E) ESTABLISH SPECIAL WORKING GROUP TO MAKE POLICY

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION OF CA AGMINS AT THEIR NEXT MTG, SET FOR END JANUARY, 1975.

F. ESTABLISH REGULAR SYSTEM OF AGMIN MTGS.

G) SUPPORT CACM RESTRUCTURING IN CA HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE (CAN).

H) GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO CATTLE INDUSTRY, FOR MORE

EFFECTIVE CA PARTICIPATION IN WORLD MEAT MARKET, AND TO ACHIEVE REGIONAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN MILK PRODUCTS.

I) SUPPORT OIRSA MEASURES AGAINST AFTOSA AND OTHER ANIMAL DISEASES.

J) COORDINATE REGIONAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH, ESPECIALLY WITH THE TROPICAL AG RESEARCH CENTER (CATIE - IN COSTA RICA) AND THE CA NUTRITIONAL INSTITUTE (INCAP - IN GUATEMALA).

K) REQUEST SIECA'S ATTENDANCE AT WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ROME, NOV. 5-16, TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL HELP AND COORDINATION FOR CENTRAL AMERICA.

5. COMMENT: ROCAP NOTES WITH SOME SATISFACTION THAT CENTRAL AMERICA, ALBEIT WITH A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF LAG, IS MATERIALLY INTENSIFYING ITS FOCUS ON THE RURAL SECTOR AND, IN PARTICULAR, A REGIONAL APPROACH TO AGRICULTURE POLICY. TRAGEN.

ALSO PASSED INFO USAID/GUATEMALA.

ANDREWS

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